

E T O N U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1939.

to the Chairman and Members of the Eton Urban District Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1939, which in accordance with Circular 2067 of the Minister of Health, I have made as brief as possible.

Section A

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar-General's estimate 1939) 3950

Live Births

TOTAL	38	Male 21	Female 17
Legitimate	38	Male 21	Female 17
Illegitimate	nil	Male nil	Female nil

Still Births

TOTAL	1	Male 1	Female nil
Legitimate	1	Male 1	Female nil
Illegitimate	nil	Male nil	Female nil

Birth Rate per 1000 Population	9.7
Birth Rate per 1000 excluding Boys at Eton College	13.7
(Birth Rate per 1000 England & Wales	15.0)

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Population	0.25
National Rate	0.59
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births	26.30

Deaths

TOTAL	34	Male 16	Female 18
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Death Rate per 1000 Population	8.6
Corrected Death Rate for Age and Sex Distribution	10.8
(Death Rate per 1000 England and Wales	12.1)
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of Childbirth	nil)
Deaths of Infants under one year of age .. Male 0	Female 0
(Infant Mortality Rate	nil)
(Rate for England and Wales	50)

Deaths from Measles	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea	nil

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	0	2
Other Tuberculosis	1	0	1
Syphilis	1	0	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	3	8
Heart Disease	4	3	7
Cerebral Haemorrhage	0	2	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2	3
Bronchitis	0	1	1
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Liver Disorders	0	1	1
Senility	0	3	3
Violence, other than Suicide	0	1	1
Other defined diseases	0	1	1
All Causes	16	18	34

There has been no unusual or excessive sickness or mortality during the Year.

(I)

Section B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority

On the 14th July the arrangement whereby the Medical Officer of Health carried out certain County Council duties in Slough in exchange for the Services of an Assistant County Medical Officer who acted as deputy during his annual leave and on weekends of alternate weeks, came to an end, and Dr A.A.Miller commenced duty as Whole-time deputy to the Medical Officer of Health. The medical staff is therefore now as follows:

Medical Officer of Health:

V.A.T.Spong, M.B.,B.S.,(Lond:), D.P.H.,M.R.C.S.(Eng:), L.R.C.P.,(Lond:), also Medical Officer of Health for Borough of Slough and the Eton Rural District, Medical Superintendent Eton Joint Isolation Hospital (Whole-time).

A.A.Miller, M.A.,M.D.(Edin:)D.P.H.,(Lond:)D.T.M.,(Liverpool) Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Borough of Slough and Eton Rural District. Deputy Medical Superintendent Eton Joint Isolation Hospital (Whole-time).

Surveyor & Engineer and Sanitary Inspector

E.F.Pressey, P.A.S.I., M.R.San.I., (Whole-time).

In connection with Civil Defence, Mr Pressey has also been appointed by the Council to deal specifically with Evacuation, Civilian Deaths, Repair of War Damage to property and Food Contaminated as a result of Gas. Mr Pressey is also Sub-Area Engineer, Southern District, in connection with Air Raid Precautions.

2. Nursing in the Home (See previous Reports).

3. Laboratory Facilities

Prior to August 1939, all Laboratory work had to be sent to London for examination by the Clinical Research Association, since then, however, a local service has been provided at the Laboratory at the Town Hall, Slough, which serves the Urban District in addition to the Rural District of Eton and the Borough of Slough.

51 swabs for Diphtheria and 1 sputum for Tuberculosis were examined at the Town Hall Laboratory for the period August-December 1939. Two swabs for Diphtheria were sent to the Clinical Research Association during the earlier months of the year.

4. Legislation in Force (See previous Reports)

5. Hospital Services (See previous Reports)

6. Ambulance Facilities (See previous Reports)

7. Clinics and Treatment Centres (See previous Reports)

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. (i) Water The Windsor Corporation Waterworks provide a constant supply throughout the District, which has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. An extension 80 yards long was made to the Council's new Building Estate in the West Ward.

- (ii) Drainage and Sewerage There has been no extension of the sewers or alteration in the method of disposal. The Sewerage Scheme for the West Ward is under construction and at the time of writing is to all intents and purposes complete and ready for the houses to be connected.

2. Rivers and Streams

The water from the River Thames was not analysed during the Year. The Public swimming pool, which is fed by water from the River, remained closed.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation No conversions were carried out during the year. In the West Ward there remain 138 cesspools and 24 pail closets.

- (ii) Public Cleansing (See previous Reports)

- (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Number of Inspections made	7
Number of Nuisances found	7
Number of Nuisances remedied by service of informal Notices	7
Number of Nuisances remedied by service of formal Notices	nil

- (iv) Shops 3 shops were inspected during the Year and were found to be complying with the requirements of the Act.

- (v) Camping Sites

- (1) Number of sites in the area used for Camping in 1929 1
 (2) Number of sites in the area which were licensed. nil
 (3) Estimated maximum number of campers at one time. 20

- (vi) Swimming Baths and Pools There are two open-air swimming pools on tributaries of the Thames, one is private and the other public. In view of the condition of the water mentioned in previous Reports, the Public Bath was not opened.

- (vii) Eradication of Bed Bugs

1. (a) Number of Council houses infested nil
 (b) Number of other houses infested 3
 (c) Number of Council houses disinfested nil
 (d) Number of other houses dis-infested 2

2. The houses were disinfested by Messrs Newton Chambers' "Zaldecide" method.

3. No investigation of tenants' belongings before entering Council houses was considered necessary.

4. The work of disinfestation in private houses is carried out by a private Contractor under the supervision of the Council.

5. The Sanitary Inspector advises and supervises to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

4. Schools

There are two elementary schools in the District. Eton Porny School has Town water supply, and sanitary accommodation on the water carriage system. The Eton Wick School has pail closets which will be converted when the Sewerage Scheme in this Area is completed. The water for this School is from the Town source.

5. Miscellaneous

Controlled Premises:

Type	Number in District	Number Registered	Number of Inspections made
Bakehouses	9	9	9
Slaughter-houses	1	1	nil
Cowkeepers	8	8	5
Dairymen(including Milk Retailers)	14	14	5

Outworkers The latest list of Outworkers shows 31 persons engaged with five firms on tailoring work.

Section D

HOUSING

20 houses to re-house persons in Numbers 5 and 6 Clearance Areas were built during the year and completed immediately prior to the outbreak of War and the tenants have moved in. Two houses occupied by Council Farm labourers were condemned by the Council and the occupants housed in the new Council houses.

Houses erected during 1939:

Houses built by Local Authority	20
Houses built by private enterprise	10

Housing Statistics for 1939

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	20
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	24
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	12

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	9
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3. Actions under Statutory Powers during the Year:

All Sections nil

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV Overcrowding:

All Sections nil

Section E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply

There are 7 Supplementary Milk Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 in force within the District.

The Accredited milk supplied from the Council's Farm continues to be of good quality as shown by bacterial analysis.

The private cowsheds in the district are still kept in a fair state of efficiency.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

The meat consumed in the district is obtained from outside the district.

No meat was found unfit for human consumption.

There were no killings within the district during the year.

(c) Ice Cream and Preserved Foods

21 shops have registered for the sale and, or manufacture of ice cream and preserved food as required by the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

Details of Inspection

Drainage and Sewerage

New drainage work	41
Blocked sewer	2
Defective drains	3
Defective Water Closet	1

Factories and Workshops

New bakehouses inspected	6
Accumulation of Refuse	2
Want of Cleanliness in Factories	3

Cowsheds and Dairies

Limewashing required	3
Want of cleanliness	3

Miscellaneous

Interviews with Builders and Property Owners	20
Dampness in houses	1
Windows defective in house	1
Plaster defective	1
Bug Infestation	3
Caravan Site inspection	1
Sanitary arrangements of Fair	1
Rat Infestation	1

Housing

Staircase require handrails	2
Dampness	2
Dust-bins required	1
Insufficient lighting	2
Defective windows	2

Section F

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1939 (Other than Tuberculosis)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>		<u>Cases admitted</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Notified</u>		<u>to hospital</u>		<u>Deaths</u>
Small Pox .....	-	.....	-	.....	-
Diphtheria	11	.....	11	.....	-
Scarlet Fever	4	.....	2	.....	-
Enteric Fever .....	-	.....	-	.....	-
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia .....	-	.....	-	.....	-
Pneumonia	1	.....	-	.....	-
Erysipelas	3	.....	2	.....	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	.....	2	.....	1
Measles .....	-	.....	-	.....	-
Whooping Cough	6	.....	1	.....	-

A small outbreak of Diphtheria, comprising 11 cases, occurred in October, but as a result of the prompt measures taken in examining children in the schools and the contacts at home, the outbreak was quickly brought to a close.

The first case - A.S.- was notified on 4th. October and the second - M.G.-on 7th. October. Both reside in Eton Wick and attend the Eton Porny School, but were in different classes.

The School was visited on 9th. October and 3 children swabbed. One -R.W.- who had returned that day after a week's illness with a cold, had an excoriated nostril with blood-stained discharge. The nasal culture was markedly positive. In view of this, 4 other children in the family were swabbed. Although none presented any clinical evidence of infection, two - E.W.- and -L.W.- had almost pure cultures of Diphtheria in their throats.

On 10th. October the school Nurse reported the absence of a boy -T.L.- with a suspicious throat, whereupon he was swabbed with a positive result. Two home contacts of this case were also swabbed with negative results, but four days later one - A.C.- was notified as a clinical case of Diphtheria, which was confirmed by bacteriological examination. On the 11th October a further case in a boy -R.L.- was notified.

All the foregoing occurred among the ordinary resident population and all were children attending the Eton Porny School.

On 15th October, an evacuee - A.M.- staying at Eton Wick was notified. Investigation revealed that the two children of the hostess - P.E. and R.E.- had been ill, one from 8th October, the

both from 10th October, with sore throats. Swabs revealed positive results. These children attended a Secondary School in Slough.

Subsequent to this, no further cases occurred. All were of the Gravis type.

Six were moderate faucial cases, two had markedly positive throat cultures with histories of sore throat, and three were cases of nasal Diphtheria.

There is no evidence to suggest infection was imported by the evacuees, but from September 25th. to October 2nd. 141 evacuees were added to the normal school population of 160. On 2nd October however, arrangements were made for the evacuee children to attend a separate afternoon Session.

The two cases of "Infantile Paralysis" occurred in July in boys attending the College. One, a boy of 14, was a severe case of Polio-encephalitis of the constrictors of the pharynx together with Pneumonia and myocarditis, I regret to say, brought about a fatal result. The other fortunately was a very mild case with transient paresis of the intrinsic eye muscles.

Of the 4 cases of Scarlet Fever - 3 resided in Eton Wick: 1 was under and 1 over school age: the third was an evacuee: the remaining case was a boy of 16 at Eton College. They occurred in the months of March, May, September and December.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Immediately prior to the small outbreak of Diphtheria, a scheme had been drawn up for the immunisation against Diphtheria of the School population in the South Bucks area. In view of the outbreak, priority was given to the Eton Urban District. An explanatory leaflet was distributed to the parents of all school children in the Eton Downy and Eton Wick Schools. 98 per cent of parents accepted the offer and each child received 1 c.c. of T.A.F. (Burroughs Wellcome) at fortnightly intervals.

Evacuation

The following figures show the number of evacuees received into and remaining in the district on the dates specified:-

6th September

Unaccompanied children	318	
Mothers and accompanied children	229	
Expectant Mothers	3	
Teachers	19	
Helpers	9	260
		578

2nd December

Unaccompanied children	34
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Numbers in District on 31st December

Unaccompanied children	217	
Mothers and accompanied children ...	34	
Expectant Mothers	1	
Teachers	19	
Helpers	5	276

In order to provide additional accommodation for Infectious Diseases and a Sick Bay for evacuees suffering from Minor Ailments the following arrangements were made :-

1. Infectious Diseases

The Eton Joint Hospital Board provided 39 additional beds for the use of the Urban District and the Borough of Slough and the Rural District of Eton, as follows:-

(a) 16 beds at the Board's Isolation Hospital at Cippenham: by using the Day Nurses' Quarters as Wards and housing the nurses in villas adjoining the hospital (these beds were brought into use on November 15th.).

(b) 23 beds at Burnham at the former Infants' Convalescent Home (opened January 15th, 1940).

2. Accommodation for Minor Ailments

26 beds at Fulmer Rise in the Eton Rural District.

This Home also serves the three constituent Authorities of the South Bucks area and is managed by a Committee consisting of one representative from each (opened 27th November).

Tuberculosis

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925, or section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

New cases and mortality

During the year 6 notifications were received of Tuberculosis, 1 male pulmonary aged 36, 3 female pulmonary, two aged 19 and one aged 15. 1 male non-pulmonary aged 1½, and 1 female non-pulmonary aged 13. 3 deaths were recorded, 2 male pulmonary aged 35 and 30, and 1 male non-pulmonary aged 1½.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

V.A.T.SPONG, M.B.,B.S.,D.P.H., & etc.,

